

As a below named inventor, I hereby declare that:

ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF REVIEW OF PAPERS AND DUTY OF CANDOR

I acknowledge the duty to disclose information which is material to the examination of this application in accordance with Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations. § 1.56(a).

POWER OF ATTORNEY

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I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the

[illegible]

Applicant: Harry J. Buncke

For: SURGICAL CLIP APPLIER

VERIFIED STATEMENT (DECLARATION) CLAIMING SMALL ENTITY
STATUS (37 CFR 1.9(f) AND 1.27(b))
INDEPENDENT INVENTOR

As a below named inventor, I hereby declare that I qualify as an independent inventor as defined in 37 CFR 1.9(c) for purposes of paying reduced fees under Section 41(a) and (b) of Title 35, United States Code, to the Patent and Trademark Office with regard to the invention entitled SURGICAL CLIP APPLIER, described in the specification filed herewith.

I have not assigned, granted, conveyed or licensed and am under no obligation under contract or law to assign, grant, convey or license any rights in the invention to any person who could not be classified as an independent inventor under 37 CFR 1.9(c) if that person had made the invention, or to any concern which would not qualify as a small business concern under 37 CFR 1.9(d) or a nonprofit organization under 37 CFR 1.9(e).

Each person, concern or organization to which I have assigned, granted, conveyed or licensed or am under an obligation under contract or law to assign, grant, convey, or license any rights in the invention is listed below:

[X] No such person, concern or organization.

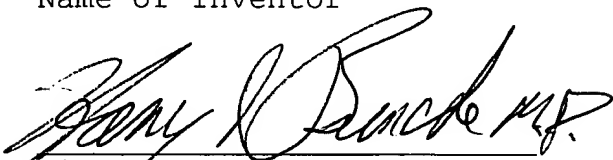
I acknowledge the duty to file, in this application, notification of any change in status resulting in loss of entitlement to small entity status prior to paying, or at the time of paying, the earliest of the issue fee or any maintenance fee due after the date on which status as a small entity is no longer appropriate. (37 CFR 1.28(b)).

I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code, and that such willful false statements may

jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issuing thereon.

Harry J. Buncke
Name of Inventor

1565 Kingswood Drive
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Address of Inventor


Signature of Inventor

6/8/00
Date

006190-90896560